J. M. KAPLAN 55 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 3, N.Y.

November 16, 1967

Dear Joel:

You cannot realize what a great joy it was to me to receive a letter directly from you — the one dated October 29th and forwarded by Dr. Velasquez — after all these many months of waiting to be able to communicate directly with you, and to assure you that I and your other uncles and one Aunt Rose are firmly on your side and prepared to do everything in our power to help you out of your present difficult situation. To provide that help, we need your confidence and cooperation; and with it — if we now have it fully, with your understanding and without reservation — we hope to be able to make progress in moving aside the mountains that seem to stand in your way.

Indeed, the very surest remedy for your affronted soul and irritation would be for you to realize and accept the fact that your very best friends — the only friends you have in the world — are your brother and your sister and the other members of your family. We are the only ones who are interested only in you and in what we can do for you — not in your money or what you can do for us.

For one thing, you must clear away from your mind once and for all, the idea that I have some interest in keeping you in jail, or that the C.I.A. — with which I once had only a very remote connection and have had none for years — or any other American organization, has conspired with the Mexican government to prolong your incarceration. All of this is fantastic nonsense — there is not a word of truth in it or any bit of foundation for it. The only people who have any interest in keeping you in jail are the crowd of leeches and bloodsuckers who surround you and who bleed you of all of the money they can lay their hands on. They are part of the poison known as the "Mafia." So long as they think there is any honey in the pot, it is they who will do their best

to keep you just where you are and connive to extract payment for ridiculous promises which they cannot possibly fulfill.

Another thing of which I want to assure you with my fullest sincerity is that I have handled your financial affairs not only with the most scrupulous honesty, but with the very careful interest and attention that I have given to the financial affairs of my own children. If you could review the details with me you would be very easily satisfied of the truth of what I say; and if you had an honest, competent and intelligent representative who had no axe of his own to grind and a true interest for you, I would be glad to go over every detail with him and let him satisfy you that never - but never - have I failed to do for you everything I could possibly accomplish for my own son.

You will recognize immediately, of course, that this description does not fit your supposed friend, Mr. Edward Bobick. Your telegram to Ezra denouncing him as a fraud was a move in the right direction, but apparently he has come back in your troubled life - the "Mafia" disease. You need to know that he is still harassing me in the courts and that it has become quite clear that he has no objective or purpose in doing so except to extract money -- your money -- from me for his own use. I cannot and will not deal with this kind of outrage. He still holds an order, alleged to be your signature, authorizing me to pay him some more of your blood money for services. Services for what -- after some \$300,000 already sucked from your mother and you for false promises.

Please awake, Joel, and try to understand reality, and Uncle Henry and Uncle Maurice and I will stand by you and give you and do for you everything within our total capacity that we possibly can. The only thought you need to have and pursue is to recognize the facts of life. Drop those leeches who have taken advantage of you and kept you imprisoned. Trust Ezra, who is

your faithful friend and brother. He will find someone who is not only honest and competent, but will be devoted solely to your interests and will be under no obligation to me or even to Ezra or Judy. I mean a young and independent attorney.

I hope you now understand and cooperate.

This determination is entirely up to you. The one big, urgent and heartfelt message I want to convey to you is that you must feel that you are one of our family and that you will always have all of the warmth and devotion of which we are capable.

JMK:c:d